

**GRADUATE SCHOOL OF OCEANOGRAPHY  
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND**

**DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

**September 2011**

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS September 2011

This manual was approved by the Educational Policy Committee (EPC) on 6 September 2011 and by the GSO Faculty on 26 September 2011. It explains the degree requirements specific to the Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO) and provides general advisory information. Students should also refer to the latest edition of the URI Graduate School Manual ([http://www.uri.edu/gsadmis/graduate\\_manual/index.html](http://www.uri.edu/gsadmis/graduate_manual/index.html)).

Students and advisors are urged to watch the Graduate School Calendar for dates related to curriculum requirements.

### **Student's Responsibility for Observing Regulations and Maintaining a Resume of Work**

It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the regulations of the Graduate School of Oceanography and the University regulations set down in the URI Graduate Student Manual. As each required step is successfully completed, the student must assume responsibility for having this recorded and signed by the major professor or temporary advisor and entered in the records of the GSO Academic Affairs Office.

A student is expected to maintain registration, not including Summer Sessions\*, until all degree requirements have been fulfilled. An MS or PhD degree candidate, having completed all requirements except the completion of the thesis, must maintain enrolled status by registering each semester for thesis research and the Oceanography Seminar (OCG 695). If a student is completing a thesis but not using the facilities of the University, the student must register for Continuing Registration each semester.

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\* Note that summer registration is required in some circumstances. For example, a student planning to take comprehensive examinations or defend a thesis during the summer must be registered in summer session.

## **ADMISSION, TIME LIMITS AND DEGREE STATUS**

### **Admission to Program and Time for Completion**

A student is admitted to GSO as a candidate for either the master's degree (Master of Science, MS; or Master of Oceanography, MO) or the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree. Students are strongly encouraged to complete a master's degree in two years and a doctorate degree in five years.

### **Time Limits**

The University imposes a time limit for completion of the degree: for master's and doctoral candidates this time limit is five years and seven years, respectively, from the date of enrollment.

Moreover, for doctoral candidates, the results of the comprehensive examination will be accepted in partial fulfillment of the degree for five years from the time the examination was taken.

For details on these and other time limits, consult the URI Graduate Student Manual.

### **Change of Degree Status**

A request from an MS candidate for a change of status to the PhD program can be submitted after the completion of the qualifying courses and will be reviewed by the faculty, the Student Admissions and Review Committee (SARC) and the Graduate School.

At least three letters of recommendation from URI faculty must accompany the request. One of these letters is to be submitted by the major professor. The student's thesis committee, if one has been formed, must also endorse the request. Finally, the SARC will require a statement from the student indicating the student's objectives in undertaking a PhD program of study. If approved by the SARC, the request is forwarded to the Graduate School that must also approve it.

If an MS candidate wishes to continue for a PhD degree after receiving the MS degree, the student must reapply for admission and be accepted into the PhD program.

A candidate for the PhD degree may elect to meet the requirements for the MS degree before continuing toward the PhD. Alternatively the candidate may choose to take an MS degree instead of the PhD. In either case the student must write a memorandum to the Graduate School requesting the change and have it endorsed by the major professor and the GSO Associate Dean before being approved by the Graduate School.

## SUBDISCIPLINES, ADVISORS AND COMMITTEES

### Subdisciplines

While interdisciplinary studies are encouraged, each MS and PhD student must choose one of the four oceanography subdisciplines (biology, chemistry, geology or physics) as an area of primary concentration. The chosen subdiscipline determines the student's course requirements (see Tables 1 and 4).

### Advisors and Major Professors

At the time of arrival, each new student is assigned a temporary academic advisor. A student who is ready to plan advanced studies and begin work toward an area of research should confer with the person or persons with whom the student prefers to study and, through mutual understanding, select a major professor. A PhD candidate should do this before the end of the third semester, and an MS candidate should do this before the end of the second semester. An MO candidate should do this before the end of the first semester.

### Committees

No committees are required for MO degree candidates.

Various committees are required for MS and PhD candidates as they proceed through the steps of the programs:

For the MS candidate, the required committees are the **thesis committee** and the **thesis defense committee** (described in the "Committees" subsection of the "MS Degree Requirements" section).

For the PhD candidate, the required committees are the **doctoral committee**, the **oral comprehensive examination committee** and the **thesis defense committee** (described in the "Committees" subsection of the "PhD Degree Requirements" section).

## **MASTER'S DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Program of Study**

For the MS or MO degree, the major professor has the responsibility for planning the program of study. The program must be endorsed by the major professor, the GSO Associate Dean and the Graduate School. It should be submitted at the same time the major professor is selected.

The minimum program for the MS or MO degree is 30 credits. At least 18 of these will be formal course credits exclusive of thesis, special problems, and directed studies; additional courses may be required either with or without plan credit according to the needs of the student and the judgment of the major professor. The minimum required number of thesis credits allowed in the plan is six, the maximum is nine.

Required courses for the MS and MO degrees are listed in Table 1.

### **Waiver of Course Requirements**

If students have elsewhere had course-work equivalent to any of the required courses (see Table 1), they may request a waiver of the course requirement(s). A request for the waiver of a required course is made by submitting to the GSO Associate Dean a "Request for Waiver of Core Course Requirements" form (available in the Academic Affairs Office). This form must indicate approval of the temporary advisor or major professor, and the course instructor. The waiver of more than two required courses must, in addition, be approved by the SARC. The request must be approved by the GSO Associate Dean and sent, along with a program of study, to the Graduate School for final approval.

### **Advanced and Elective Courses**

Deficiencies are normally taken for no-program credit and depend on the student's admission requirements. For master's candidates, 400 and 500 level prerequisites for advanced courses would be appropriate electives. The URI Graduate School permits the use of 400 level courses up to one half of the course credits required for the master's degree. However, if a GSO student intends to use more than 6 credits of 400 level courses on their program of study, they must receive prior approval from their major professor and the associate dean.

### **Seminar in Oceanography (OCG 695)**

Students at the Graduate School of Oceanography are required to register for and attend the Seminar in Oceanography (OCG 695) each semester while in residence. All students, with the exception of first-year students and MO students, will normally present a 13-minute oral seminar once during the

academic year. A student may substitute a poster presentation for an oral seminar after the second year, but may do this only once. A student is allowed to list this course in the program of study for only two program credits (per degree).

**TABLE 1**

**MASTER'S DEGREE: REQUIRED COURSES**

<i>Biological Oceanography</i>	OCG 501 521 540 561
<i>Marine &amp; Atmospheric Chemistry</i>	OCG 501 521 540 561
<i>Marine Geology &amp; Geophysics</i>	6 credits of OCG 500-600 level courses outside their discipline (not including OCG 695)

<i>Physical Oceanography</i>	OCG 501 5XX  OCG 610 or OCG 613
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<i>MO DEGREE</i>	OCG 501 521 540 561  Scientific tools requirement: statistics, data analysis or scientific writing (3 credits). Electives: 6 credits in oceanography or in courses from other science departments and a 3-credit course in policy, management, economics or a related field (9 credits). OCG 591 / 592 Individual Study resulting in a major paper (3 credits).
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Courses

501=Physical Oceanography	561=Biological Oceanography
5XX=Principles of Ocean Circulation	610=Geophys. Fluid Dynamics I
521=Chemical Oceanography	613=Waves
540=Geological Oceanography	

### Oceanic Research Cruise

Each MS degree candidate at GSO is required to participate in a regular oceanic research cruise while the student is enrolled as a graduate student at GSO or at another oceanographic institution, or employed in a technical position by an oceanographic institution. A regular oceanic cruise means that the vessel was a member of the UNOLS fleet or comparable ship, that the vessel was involved in oceanographic research as its primary mission while the student was on board, that the ship was continuously at sea for at least five days and nights, and that the student actively participated in the scientific activities.

The purpose of this requirement is to expose the student to techniques, technologies and procedures for collecting oceanographic data at sea. The cruise must be approved by the student's major professor or advisor and reported to the GSO Associate Dean on a "Cruise Requirement Form" (available online). Under unusual circumstances, it is possible that individuals may be excused from this requirement when appropriate. Requests for a waiver of the cruise requirement must be submitted to the GSO Associate Dean and approved by the SARC.

MO degree candidates are not required to participate in a research cruise, but are nevertheless encouraged to do so.

### Committees

Each MS candidate must form a **thesis committee**, chosen jointly by the student and the major professor. It is composed of three or more members of the graduate faculty, including the major professor. The committee is responsible for planning and directing the work required for the thesis. This includes advising the student during preparation of the thesis proposal, guiding the thesis research, and supervising preparation of the thesis.

The thesis committee will include at least two members of the GSO faculty and one or more graduate faculty members from another department of the University. Two members must be GSO tenure-track faculty, except that a GSO professor in residence, GSO research faculty member, or GSO emeritus faculty member may be substituted for one of these two GSO tenure-track faculty members. Other individuals may serve on the thesis committee if they are adjunct professors (on the graduate faculty) or if they are appointed as external committee members. (See Appendix A for details on roles and appointment procedures for adjunct professors, professors in residence, and external examiners.)

For the MS thesis defense, a **thesis defense committee** is formed, consisting of the thesis committee and an additional member (from outside GSO) approved by the Graduate School to chair the committee.



### **Thesis Proposal and Proposal Defense**

Each MS degree candidate, having formed a thesis committee, is required to submit a written statement of the proposed problem for a thesis.

The thesis proposal should be submitted in the early stages of research. An MS candidate should do this by the beginning of the third semester.

If the research involves the use of human or animal subjects, the proposal must be submitted for approval to the appropriate University committee before research is begun (see, respectively, Appendix D or E of the URI Graduate Student Manual).

Prior to submission of the thesis proposal to the Graduate School, the candidate is required to make an oral presentation of the written proposal. The presentation is convened by the major professor and includes all members of the student's thesis committee. The thesis committee is allowed to ask questions and make suggestions for improvement of the proposal. The presentation is open to other invited faculty at the discretion of the student and major professor. Normally, the presentation and question period is one hour in length.

### **Written Master's Examination**

This examination is given at the discretion of the major professor for MS students, and is required for MO students. It is a written examination, lasting at least four hours and arranged by the student's major professor. It is directed toward testing competence in the student's chosen area of oceanography and in the basic disciplines supporting this area of knowledge. The major professor is responsible for the administration of the examination, which is taken by the student near the completion of formal course work. A student failing this examination may, upon recommendation of the major professor and approval of the Dean of the Graduate School, be given one re-examination.

### **Oral Defense of Master's Thesis (MS only)**

The defendable copy of the master's written thesis must conform to the regulations of the Graduate School and will be made available electronically to the GSO community.

The master's oral examination is conducted by the student's thesis defense committee (described in the "Committees" subsection of the "Master's Degree Requirements" section). The emphasis of the exam is on the defense of the thesis and on supporting scholarship. Normally, this examination is one-and-a-half to two hours in length. Unanimous approval of the examining committee is required for the student to pass the examination.

## MASTER'S DEGREE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

### Student Status and Progress Reports

All MS and MO students are required to submit an Annual Progress Report to the Academic Affairs Office. Before submitting the report the student will have it endorsed by the major professor or temporary advisor. It is expected that the report will be an informative summation of accomplished work and future plans. A form for the [Annual Progress Report](#) is online.

### Review of Performance

A Review Committee, consisting of the SARC plus the student's major professor or temporary advisor, may review the performance of a student's coursework, research, and/or general progress.

Grounds for review of the student's status are as follows:

1. Any grade of "C-", "D" or "F" in Required Courses (see Table 1).
2. More than one "C" in Required Courses (see Table 1).
3. A grade-point average less than 3.0
4. Any report to the SARC from the advisor, major professor, or any GSO faculty member, indicating dissatisfaction with the student's progress.

Should the Review Committee recommend that a student be dismissed or that the student's status as a degree candidate be changed, such action is subject to GSO faculty approval and the approval of the Graduate School. Only the Dean of the Graduate School has the power to dismiss a student.

Graduate School regulations stipulate that an average of "B" in all work taken is required for graduation, except for courses taken as entrance deficiencies or approved for no program credit prior to registration for the course.

TABLE 2

**M.S. Degree Requirements Timetable\***

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Recommended Timetable</b>
Major Professor	First year
Thesis Committee	First year
Program of Study	First year
Research Cruise	By end of program
Thesis Proposal	Beginning of third semester
Written Master's Exam	May be required by Major Professor
Annual Progress Report	Annually
Thesis Defense	Within two years of entry

**Required Courses**

OCG 695	Every semester, only two credits apply to program
Biology and Chemistry	OCG 501, 521, 540, and 561
Geology	Six credits of OCG 500-600 level courses outside their discipline (not including OCG 695)
Physics	OCG 501, 5XX, 610 or 613

\*Refer to the URI Graduate Student Manual for details on time *limits*, especially Sections 4.90, 7.42 and 7.75.

TABLE 3

**M.O. Degree Requirements Timetable\***

Requirements	Recommended Timetable
Major Professor	First semester
Program of Study	First semester
Research Cruise	Optional
Written Master's Exam	At or near the completion of the formal course work as stipulated in the program of study
Annual Progress Reports	Annually

**Required Courses**

OCG 695	Every semester, only two credits apply to program
	OCG 501, 521, 540, and 561

3 credits scientific tools  
9 other credits  
3 credits individual study resulting in a major paper

SEE TABLE 1  
FOR COURSE  
DETAILS

=Total of 30 Credits

\*Refer to the URI Graduate Student Manual for details on time *limits*, especially Sections 4.90, 7.42 and 7.75.

## PhD DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

### Program of Study

Each candidate for a PhD degree shall submit a *tentative* program of study at the end of the first semester as a doctoral candidate. As soon as a doctoral committee is formed, the candidate should seek the advice of the committee in formulating a *final* PhD program of study. The final program of study should be submitted as soon as the qualifying requirements have been completed, and should be properly endorsed by the doctoral committee, the GSO Associate Dean and the Graduate School. Any later requested changes in the final program of study must be similarly endorsed.

The minimum program for the PhD is 72 credits beyond the baccalaureate. A typical minimum program of study would contain 42-48 credits of course-work and 24-30 credits of research. Students with a master's degree in a closely related field may request to transfer up to 30 credits from their MS program to their PhD program. The minimum program of study for such students would normally contain 18-24 credits of course-work and 18-24 credits of research.

Required courses for the PhD degree are listed in Table 4.

### PhD Qualifying Requirement

The intent of the qualifying requirement is to assess a student's potential to perform satisfactorily at the doctoral level and to demonstrate competence by mastering certain specified courses. The requirement is satisfied by achieving a B or better in a set of specified courses (see Table 4).

For each student who does not meet the qualifying requirement, the SARC will assess the student's preparation for advanced study and may stipulate further requirements that must be fulfilled in a suitably designated time period in order to qualify. Although such reviews will take into account the individual needs of each student, the primary responsibility of the SARC is to check the competence of the student in the basic supporting sciences.

The qualifying requirements must also be met by those students who have completed the MS degree at the Graduate School of Oceanography and re-enrolled in the PhD program.

### Advanced and Elective Courses

Deficiencies are normally taken for no-program credit and depend on the student's admission requirements. For PhD candidates, 400 and 500 level prerequisites for advanced courses can be used as electives. The URI Graduate

School permits the use of up to 15 credits of 400 level courses on the program of study. However, if a GSO student intends to use more than 6 credits of 400 level courses on their program of study, they must receive prior approval from their major professor and the associate dean. The use of 400 level courses is not allowed for program credit for PhD candidates with advanced standing for a master's degree in an oceanography related field.

Students who do not have the prerequisites for any one of the required courses must begin study toward offsetting such deficiencies immediately upon being admitted to the Graduate School of Oceanography. A student should complete all required courses by the fourth semester of full-time study.

### **Waiver of Course Requirements**

If students have elsewhere had course-work equivalent to any of the required courses (see Table 4), they may request a waiver of the course requirement(s). A request for the waiver of a required course is made by submitting to the GSO Associate Dean a "Request for Waiver of Core Course Requirements" form (available in the Academic Affairs Office). This form must indicate approval of the temporary advisor or major professor, and the course instructor. The waiver of more than two required courses must, in addition, be approved by the SARC. The request must be approved by the GSO Associate Dean and sent, along with a program of study, to the Graduate School for final approval.

### **Seminar in Oceanography (OCG 695)**

Students at the Graduate School of Oceanography are required to register for and attend the Seminar in Oceanography (OCG 695) each semester while in residence. All PhD students, with the exception of first-year students, will present a 13-minute oral seminar once during the academic year. A student may substitute a poster presentation for an oral seminar after the second year, but may do this only once. A student is allowed to list this course in the program of study for only two program credits (per degree).

**TABLE 4**

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE: REQUIRED COURSES**

<u>SUBDISCIPLINE</u>	<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>QUALIFYING</u> (B or better)
<i>Biological Oceanography</i>		OCG 501 521 540 561
<i>Marine &amp; Atmospheric Chemistry</i>		OCG 501 521 540 561
<i>Marine Geology &amp; Geophysics</i>		OCG 540 and any two of 501 521 561
<i>Physical Oceanography</i>	Any 6 credits of 500-600 level OCG courses outside of discipline	OCG 501 5XX 613

Courses

501 Physical Oceanography	561 Biological Oceanography
521 Chemical Oceanography	610 Geophys. Fluid Dynamics I
540 Geological Oceanography	613 Waves
5XX Principles of Ocean Circulation	

### Oceanic Research Cruise

Each PhD degree candidate at GSO is required to participate in a regular oceanic research cruise while the student is enrolled as a graduate student at GSO or at another oceanographic institution, or employed in a technical position by an oceanographic institution. A regular oceanic cruise means that the vessel was a member of the UNOLS fleet or comparable ship, that the vessel was involved in oceanographic research as its primary mission while the student was on board, that the ship was continuously at sea for at least five days and nights, and that the student actively participated in the scientific activities.

The purpose of this requirement is to expose the student to techniques, technologies and procedures for collecting oceanographic data at sea. The cruise must be approved by the student's major professor or advisor and reported to the GSO Associate Dean on a "[Cruise Requirement Form](#)" (available online). Under unusual circumstances, it is possible that individuals may be excused from this requirement when appropriate. Requests for a waiver of the cruise requirement must be submitted to the GSO Associate Dean and approved by the SARC.

### Committees

Each PhD candidate must form a **doctoral committee**, which supervises the student's program of study from the time the major professor is selected until the thesis is defended. It is composed of three or more members of the graduate faculty, including the major professor. The doctoral committee is responsible for preparing and evaluating the written comprehensive examination.

The doctoral committee will include at least two members of the GSO faculty and one or more faculty members from another department of the University. Two members must be GSO tenure-track faculty, except that a GSO professor in residence, GSO research faculty member, or GSO emeritus faculty member may be substituted for one of these two GSO tenure-track faculty members.

Other individuals may serve on the doctoral committee if they are adjunct professors (on the graduate faculty) or if they are appointed as external committee members. (See Appendix A for details on roles and appointment procedures for adjunct professors, professors in residence, and external examiners.)

The PhD oral comprehensive examination is given by an **oral comprehensive examination committee** composed of the doctoral committee plus two additional faculty approved by the Graduate School, one a member of the GSO faculty and the other a member of another department of the University. Very often the two additional members of the oral comprehensive



examination committee also serve as the additional members on the student's thesis defense committee.

For the PhD thesis defense, a **thesis defense committee** is formed, consisting of the doctoral committee and two additional members appointed by the Graduate School. One additional member is from GSO and the other (who chairs the committee) from another department of the University.

### **Thesis Proposal and Proposal Defense**

Each PhD degree candidate, having formed a thesis committee, is required to submit a written statement of the proposed problem for a thesis (dissertation).

The thesis proposal should be submitted in the early stages of research. A PhD candidate will ordinarily do this the semester following successful completion of the comprehensive exam.

If the research involves the use of human or animal subjects, the proposal must be submitted for approval to the appropriate University committee before research is begun (see, respectively, Appendix D or E of the URI Graduate Student Manual).

Prior to submission of the thesis proposal to the Graduate School, the candidate is required to make an oral presentation of the written proposal. The presentation is convened by the major professor and includes all members of the student's doctoral committee. The doctoral committee is allowed to ask questions and make suggestions for improvement of the proposal. Although no additional committee members are required, the presentation is open to other invited faculty at the discretion of the student and major professor. Normally, the presentation and question period is one hour in length.

### **PhD Comprehensive Examination**

This examination is given at or near the completion of course work and not later than 12 months after the student has completed the formal courses stipulated in the student's program of study. The intent of the Comprehensive Examination is to test the student's breadth and depth of knowledge in the student's chosen area of oceanography (normally biological, chemical, geological, or physical oceanography) and supporting disciplines. The examination is directed toward determining the student's grasp of factual and theoretical information and the student's ability to apply this information to oceanographic problems.

The student should normally schedule a meeting with the doctoral committee members at least two months before the time planned for taking the Comprehensive Examination. The program committee will review the student's preparation, propose a date for the written portion of the exam, and suggest names to be recommended to the Graduate School as additional examiners. The

major professor will determine an appropriate examination procedure and work out the necessary arrangements.

The examination has two parts, a written and an oral examination.

The written examination will be administered by the major professor and will consist of questions submitted by the members of the student's doctoral committee and/or any other examiners. The committee judges the results of the examination. The written examination will be given over a period of several days. The student must be registered to take the examination.

The oral examination will be given on successful completion of the written examination. It will be carried out by the Oral Comprehensive Examination Committee (described in the "Committees" subsection of the "PhD Degree Requirements" section). The major professor will serve as chairman. The oral examination is usually two hours in length. The student shall take the oral examination within four weeks of the written examination. The student must be registered in order to take the examination.

The time and place shall be announced at least a week in advance by the major professor. The exam, including time, date and place, must be approved by the Graduate School. Any member of the faculty of the Graduate School of Oceanography may attend and have the privilege of asking questions and expressing opinions as to the performance of the student. Unanimous approval of the Oral Comprehensive Examination Committee is required for passing.

Upon completion of either the written or oral examination, the major professor will inform the student, the Academic Affairs Office and the Graduate School of the results. If the student has failed, the examiners may recommend re-examination to the Graduate School. A student will be allowed to repeat the examination only once. It may be necessary to repeat only portions of the examination.

### **Publication of Results**

It is expected that students publish at least portions of their dissertation research in the peer-reviewed literature. The rigorous examination of the research by outside experts in the field that comes with publication will strengthen the dissertation and make the results available beyond the university.

### **Oral Defense of Doctoral Thesis (Dissertation)**

The defendable copy of the PhD written dissertation must conform to the regulations of the Graduate School and will be made available electronically to the GSO community.

The examination is carried out by the thesis defense committee (described in the “Committees” subsection of the “PhD Degree Requirements” section). It is primarily in defense of the thesis, the candidate's knowledge in support of the thesis, and the area of science that it represents.

The examination is open to the public. Faculty members present may participate, as time permits, in the questioning. The evaluation of the examination is the responsibility of the thesis defense committee and unanimous approval of this committee is required for the student to pass the examination.

## PHD DEGREE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

### Student Progress Reports

All PhD students are required to meet with their doctoral committee members at least once a year and review their progress. An Annual Progress Report, which must be endorsed by the student's doctoral committee, is to be submitted to the GSO Academic Affairs Office. It is expected that the report will be an informative summation of accomplished work and future plans and not an exhaustive and detailed account of research progress. A form for the Progress Report will be provided by the Academic Affairs Office.

### Review of Performance

A Review Committee, consisting of the SARC plus the student's major professor or temporary advisor, may review the performance of a student's coursework, research, and/or general progress.

Grounds for review of the student's status are as follows:

1. Any grade of "C-", "D" or "F" in Required Courses (see Table 4).
2. More than one "C" in Required Courses (see Table 4). Note: If a PhD candidate earns a grade lower than "B" in a Qualifying Course, the student's status must be reviewed since the PhD Qualifying Requirements have not been met (see Table 4).
3. A grade-point average less than 3.0
4. Any report to the SARC from the advisor, major professor, or any GSO faculty member, indicating dissatisfaction with the student's progress.

Should the Review Committee recommend that a student be dismissed or that the student's status as a degree candidate be changed, such action is subject to GSO faculty approval and the approval of the Graduate School. Only the Dean of the Graduate School has the power to dismiss a student.

Graduate School regulations stipulate that an average of "B" in all work taken is required for graduation, except for courses taken as entrance deficiencies or approved for no program credit prior to registration for the course.

**TABLE 5**

**PhD Degree Requirements Timetable\***

<u>Requirements</u>	<u>Recommended Timetable</u>
Major Professor	Before end of third semester
Doctoral Committee	Before end of third semester
Program of Study	<b>Students with B.S.</b> Tentative: first semester Final: after 24-30 credits and successful completion of qualifying exam  <b>Students with M.S.</b> Final: first semester
Research Cruise	By end of program
Thesis Proposal	During third year
Comprehensive Exams	At or near the completion of formal course work in program of study. Before end of fifth semester
Annual Progress Report	Annually
Thesis Defense	Within five years of entry

**Qualifying Requirements**

**Distribution Requirements**

Biology and Chemistry OCG 501, 521, 540, 561	None
Geology OCG 540 and two of: OCG 501, 521, 561	None
Physics OCG 501, 5XX, 613	Any six credits of 500-600 level OCG courses

**Required Courses**

OCG 695

Every semester, but only two credits apply to program

42-48 course credits (not including OCG 699)

24-30 research credits of OCG 699

= Total of 72 credits

Note: 30 may be transferred from a closely related master's program

\*Refer to the URI Graduate Student Manual for details on time *limits*, especially Sections 4.90, 7.51 and 7.75

#### APPENDIX A — ADJUNCT PROFESSORS, PROFESSORS IN RESIDENCE AND EXTERNAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

For the definitions and appointment procedures for “adjunct professor” and “external committee member,” see respectively Sections 7.11.22 and 7.11.23 of the URI University Manual ([http://www.uri.edu/facsen/CHAPTER\\_7.html](http://www.uri.edu/facsen/CHAPTER_7.html)). A professor in residence is similar to an adjunct faculty member with the additional right of being able to serve as major professor for a graduate student.

The Academic Affairs Office should be consulted for the current list of GSO adjunct professors and professors in residence, also for advice on procedures for requesting appointment of someone who is not currently on the list.

An external committee member is a person of established reputation in a field related to that of the GSO student’s thesis, who is not associated with the University of Rhode Island. The external committee member is appointed by the Graduate School specifically to serve as an additional member of the thesis defense committee for a particular graduate student. An external committee member is always considered an addition to the committee, not a replacement of a member. External members are allowed to judge the results of the student's thesis defense. The Academic Affairs Office should be consulted on procedures for requesting appointment of an external committee member.